

Pat Pignatelli, Jr. M.P.H., President of the
New Jersey Health Officers Association
Presents
The **2005 Frank J. Osborne Memorial Award**
For Meritorious Achievement in Public Health to
PETER L. CORREALE

September 27, 2005
Doral Forrestal Conference Center
Princeton, NJ

Peter Correale was born in Morristown, New Jersey, on January 19, 1951 and was raised in Rockaway Township with his sister, Roxanne and brother, Louis. He moved to Sussex County 29 years ago and has been a resident since.

Peter earned a Bachelor's degree in Bacteriology at Rutgers University, but developed a keen interest in public health along the way. After graduating from Rutgers in 1973, he took a job as Sanitarian with the Pequannock Health Department, eventually earning a promotion to Senior Sanitarian. Peter received his New Jersey Health Officer's license and took a job with the Sparta Health Department in 1980, serving as Health Officer, Welfare Director and Registrar of Vital Statistics before returning to the Pequannock Health Department as Health Officer in 1987. Needless to say, Peter has remained a vital fixture in New Jersey's public health arena for the last 32 years.

Peter has worked tirelessly to advance his profession. He established the Morris County Health Officers Association in 1989, and served as its first President from 1989-1991. Peter served as President of the New Jersey Health Officers Association from 2000-2002 and was the first President in decades to serve two terms. Peter was almost single-handedly responsible for improving professional recognition in Trenton, engaging a public affairs consulting firm and spending countless hours meeting with legislators, the Commissioner of Health, the Governor's office and various staff to promote programs that would benefit New Jersey's citizens. Peter also brought attention to oral health issues, forming partnerships with the UMDNJ Dental School and the NJ Dental Society.

Peter's efforts to advance public health were also evident when he embarked on a mission to organize health services in Morris County. Always prescient, Peter believed that municipalities could better serve the public through collaboration. His critical work coincided with the development of New Jersey's Public Health Practice Standards, which Peter was actively involved with. His department served as a pilot site for implementation of the Practice Standards regulations. As Project Manager for this demonstration project, Peter secured consensus among Morris County's health officers in ultimately establishing New Jersey's first incorporated Public Health Partnership in May 2002. Peter has served as President of the Partnership - which includes health departments, hospitals, county government and other human service organizations - since its inception.

On a statewide level, Peter has had a hand in shaping the state's bioterrorism strategy, and has challenged his profession to create a vision for local health in New Jersey. The continued dialogue ultimately resulted in a resolution and working vision statement in less than three years.

While Peter has an unparalleled appreciation of a local health officer's abilities and importance, it is his awareness of a health officer's responsibility to the public that sets him apart. Peter tends to measure issues by his ability to make a difference in health outcomes and in people's lives. Says Peter's brother Louis, himself a lifelong environmental health practitioner, "It is impossible to be in conversation regarding public health with Peter and not become infected by his unending enthusiasm to push the envelope ... to challenge new ideas with the hope of opening new avenues to attain health care for those in need."

Peter is always forward thinking in his ideas, constantly evaluating and discussing ways in which public health may best be delivered. He is selfless in his pursuit of parity when considering health services both locally and statewide, guided only by the interests of those most in need. He is tireless in his quest to both absorb and impart information that may be of help to the community at large ... and Peter never backs down from a fight when he believes he is doing what is best to help protect the health of New Jersey's residents.

"I have always found Peter to be one who looks for programs that would benefit the poor and underprivileged residents of New Jersey," says NJHOA President Pat Pignatelli. "He has reached out to other respected colleagues in our field in order to bring together new ideas. His energy and compassion truly exemplify our position as public servants. I am extremely proud to have Pete Correale as a fellow Health Officer and friend."

"Those who work along with Peter - his coworkers and colleagues - can attest to his knowledge, insight and passion for his profession," says Louis Correale. "It is this untiring dedication and commitment to the future of public health that has gained him the respect and admiration of those who know him and know of him." Adds Bob Schermer, Public Health Services Planner, "Peter Correale is a true visionary ... and one who knows how to make the vision a reality."

Peter lives with his wife, Loretta, in Wantage Township. He has three children -Mike, 24, Erin, 25, and Amy, 22. He enjoys golfing and ballroom dancing, and is lauded by his colleagues as a "pretty good surf fisherman."

